

Free Block Activities

June 2022 GCNA Congress

[this document is publicly linked to GCNA page]

There are three "free" blocks in the congress schedule on June 16, 17, and 18, immediately following lunch and lasting 60 minutes. During these blocks, various activities will be offered including many masterclasses and workshops. You will only be able to participate in at most three of these activities, and only if space is available. The masterclasses and workshops are designed for both new students and experienced professionals. All are welcome and encouraged to participate, however students will receive priority for a given class if demand is high.

1) Performance Masterclass: Playing technique in 3 layers and 8 fingers

Presenter: Koen Van Assche

Attendees should prepare: A slow piece of music to perform.

Description: This course goes back to the basics, both for beginners and for those who have been playing the carillon for a while, but feeling a need to find better and perhaps new ways to control the instrument. It is evident that playing with the fists only has limitations. In a constant evolution of the playing style, finger work is probably one of the most remarkable new approaches, suitable for any kind of carillon, also the heaviest ones. Working in three layers is a method to make your carillon sounds more transparent and more dynamic, dividing your score into small groups and phrases, using three different accents.

2) Performance Masterclass: Developing tone on the carillon

Presenter: Jeremy Chesman

Attendees should prepare: A carillon piece ready for polishing.

Description: This masterclass will focus on the development of a variety of tone colors on the carillon. We will examine various techniques for eliciting a divers range of tones and also how to apply them musically to a piece of music.

3) Performance Masterclass: Lyrical Playing

Presenter: Ellen Dickinson

Attendees should prepare: Participants should bring a prepared piece of music.

Description: Participants will have an opportunity to play and receive feedback. The emphasis will be on how technique enables musical and lyrical playing.

4) Performance Masterclass: Baroque ornamentation

Presenter: Jim Fackenthal

Attendees should prepare: A baroque or classical piece full of ornamentation. The Gerken edition of 91 Selections of De Gruyters has good examples.

Description: The masterclass will guide participants in interpreting baroque ornamentation. We will discuss the rules for executing ornaments correctly, when the rules for baroque ornamentation might be applied to non-baroque music, and when the rules may be tastefully broken to serve an idiomatic carillon performance.

5) Performance Masterclass: Taking The Lead: Lead Sheet Performance Tips

Presenter: Tim Sleep

Attendees should prepare: Participants may bring a lead sheet that they have been working on. However, samples will be provided for participants.

Description: When you need to perform a tune and don't have time to write out an arrangement an improvised performance from a lead sheet fits the bill. Learn tips/tricks to play from widely available lead sheets for all types of music from Classical to Country. Learn about the hook, riff, & groove as well as carillon-centric accompaniment figures.

6) Performance & Arranging: Bell Ensemble - The art of the Carillon Duo

Presenter: **Dina Verheyden & Richard de Waardt**

Attendees should prepare: Carillon duet arrangement / Sketch or idea of a piece that can be arranged for carillon duo / Play a carillon duet

Description: During this masterclass we explore the subtle art of the carillon duo. The masterclass starts with a demonstration of several pieces and we discuss the choices we made and make, both in arranging the pieces for duo, as well as how we interpret and play the music. We focus on how to listen to your partner, leading & following, how to play rubato and ritardandos together, the advantages and disadvantages of arranging for carillon. After the demonstration we focus on specific questions and music of participants who are invited to bring their own arrangements and compositions for carillon duo.

7) Arranging Workshop: Arranging for Carillon: Amplifying Diverse Musical Traditions, Composers, and Songwriters

Presenter: **Tiffany Ng**

Where: Studio practice carillon

Attendees should prepare: an initial draft of your arrangement; a written transcription of a melody; or an instrumental score to arrange from (keyboard scores preferred)

Description: Enrich your artistic practice as a carillon player and arranger with more diverse music! Participants are invited to work on arranging a composition or song from a cultural tradition or by a composer underrepresented in carillon repertoire, which currently best represents art music and Christian service music by white male composers. You may wish to consult underrepresented listeners for suggestions. Bring a draft-in-progress of your arrangement, transcription of a song, or a score for another instrument, and work with Tiffany Ng on ways to develop it towards a fully realized arrangement. Discussion will also include permissions and avoiding cultural appropriation.

8) Composing Workshop: Composing for Carillon 101

Presenter: **Geert D'hollander**

Attendees should prepare: compositions/sketches/ideas

Description: Basic ideas and suggestions on how to compose for carillon.

9) Composing Workshop: BYO Story—Create New Carillon Compositions via Collaborative Investigative Composition

Presenter: **Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra**

Attendees should prepare: A well-researched story, social issue, quote, cultural event; write down some ideas about the affect (mood, emotion) of the story; jot some themes that you feel paint the text of the story and communicate the feelings involved

Description: Do you have a story to tell? Bring your own well-researched story, social issue, quote, or cultural tradition, and learn how to express the story by composing new carillon music. Global Rings mentor and editor Pamela Ruiters-Feenstra will share tips from Collaborative Investigative Composing (CIC), where stories and music meet, in which she collaborates with storytellers to compose carillon works that preserve underreported stories, ignored issues, quotes and cultural events that deserve a broader hearing, preserved in bronze resonance and notated music.

10) Practice Workshop:

Presenter:

Attendees should prepare:

Description:

Practice Strategies Workshop

Alex Johnson

Participants should bring a piece of music that contains a section, short passage, or brief gesture which they are struggling to play or improve for any reason.

The goal of this workshop is to examine problematic passages of music, identify the technical issues preventing improvement, and then explore a range of practice strategies that will help the participants master the underlying technical issues. Root difficulties addressed may include tremolando, playing rapidly, coordinating three or more voices, playing with fingers, and more.

11) Change-ringing:

Presenter:

Description:

Visit Mitchell Tower's change-ringing bells

Tom Farthing

A visit to UChicago's Mitchell Tower to see the ten historic change-ringing bells. Mitchell Tower is a short walk from Rockefeller Chapel.

12) Rockefeller Organ:

Presenter:

Description:

Rockefeller Chapel Organ Demo

Tom Weisflog

Built by master organ builder Ernest M. Skinner, Rockefeller's Opus 634 is one of the great romantic organs of America. Hear University Organist Tom Weisflog play. Opportunities for attending organists to play may be possible.

13) Bond Organ:

Presenter:

Description:

Bond Chapel Organ Demo

Tom Weisflog

The Reneker organ, built for the former home of the Chicago Theological Seminary, was relocated to Bond Chapel in 2012. A lovely Baroque tracker organ, built by Quebec's Karl Wilhelm in 1983, it quickly won an award for "divine design" in its new home. Hear University Organist Tom Weisflog play.

Opportunities for attending organists to play may be possible. Bond Chapel is a short walk from Rockefeller Chapel.